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The ideal weed?

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Curriculum vitae

Mariska te Beest was born on the 6th of January 1976 in Dinxperlo, The Netherlands. In 1994 she obtained her high school degree from 'Christelijk College Schaersvoorde' in Aalten. In the same year she started with the biology study at Wageningen Agricultural University. She received her Masters of Science degree in 1999 with distinction. During her study she specialised in community and population biology with an emphasis on botany and performed 6-9 month research projects in entomology, plant systematics and economic botany. For the latter two projects she spent time abroad at Calicut University, Kerala, India and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London, UK, respectively.

After obtaining her MSc degree she worked for six months for TRAFFIC, at their Brussels office, assessing the trade in medicinal plants in the Benelux. After this she worked for two years at Numico Research in Wageningen, as a junior researcher in (ethno)-botany and plant taxonomy, supporting the development of food supplements with botanical knowledge. In February 2002 she went to Hlulhuwe-iMfolozi Park to perform a research project on the ethnobotany of the Zulu people and the protection of Muthi-plants. There she got the opportunity to start a research project on the ecology of *Chromolaena odorata* that eventually led to this thesis.

